

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
TO THE
BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE MONTHS OF
SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2007**

At the meetings of October 9, 2007, and October 22, 2007, the General Manager or his designee provided the following updates, summary of activities, and information about events in September and October. The Board did not meet in September.

Announcements: Online Licensing has been made available on the Department's website. Currently, the new feature can only be used to license dogs. Equine licensing renewal will be made available in the future. The Department is also looking into working with PetCo to sell licenses to the community to increase the licensing numbers.

The Department is working with the authorities of the Port of Los Angeles to establish a feral cat pilot program to help manage the feral cat colonies in the surrounding areas. The Port of Los Angeles has also been recently dealing with an increasing number of raccoons coming to feed on leftover cat food. The Port staff will deal with any environmental review that is necessary.

The General Manager recently met with Council Member Wendy Gruel to discuss use of the old East Valley facility by a non-profit group and give the cost of bringing the facility back up to code. However, the Department believes it is useful to move forward with the RFQ process and see what is out there..

Captain Wendell Bowers, Acting Director of Field Operations, will assess the condition of the protective gear for the Animal Cruelty Task Force officers and recommend what would be appropriate in regards to the purchasing of new bulletproof vests. Officers have voluntarily decided not use the vests, and in any event, the old ones are past recommended life. On October 5, the LA Daily News featured an article on the Animal Cruelty Task Force as a leading agent in the fight against animal cruelty.

The Department will soon be hiring their fifth veterinarian to work in the animal care centers.

Television Exposure: The National Geographic Channel will air their "Dog Whisperer" episode featuring the Department on Friday, October 26 at 11:00 PM, and on Saturday, October 27 at 11:00 AM. The Department has recently had conversations with the producers of the Animal Planet show "Animal Precinct" about putting together a five-show pilot that would feature the Department's animal care centers and staff. Currently, the Department has been working with series creator Morgan Spurlock and the producers of the FX Networks show "30 Days" to film an episode at one of the Department's animal care centers. The premise of "30 Days" is to place an individual in a living environment that is antithetical to one's upbringing, beliefs, religion, or profession in an effort to examine real societal differences Americans face everyday.

Emergency Preparedness: The General Manager was recently in Lake Arrowhead with other City General Managers, the Mayor, and the Chief of Police to discuss emergency response in case of a disaster in Los Angeles. On October 21, 2007, the City was called into Level 1 Activation in response to the Malibu fires. Twelve City departments were placed on stand-by to assist the County and other affected communities in need of help. Two areas of concern were the Carbon Canyon and the Los Flores Canyon communities, where the fires threatened evacuation. The recent crises with the southland fires have served as a hallmark to the Department on how quickly and effectively their response has been. The level of coordination has been unprecedented.

The South Los Angeles Animal Care Center recently experienced a giardia enteritis outbreak. Chief Veterinarian Dr. Steven Feldman, DVM, reported that in early October Department staff had noticed a few sporadic cases of watery diarrhea among the female kennel dogs. Fecal samples, sent to Antech Laboratory, received positive readings for giardia, giardia cysts, and coccidian or roundworm/hookworm positive. Twice daily treatment with metronidazole and sulfadimethoxine was given to the affected dogs. Over the weekend of October 6, the affected female dogs appeared to be recovering and having more solid stools. However, many of the male dogs were beginning to break with diarrhea. Antibiotic treatment was immediately initiated in those kennels. To minimize the potential spreading of any contagious disease, the mobile adoptions from SLA were cancelled, and an entire ward was disinfected and reserved for the incoming impounds. Veterinarian staff decided to start treating animals even in non-affected dog kennel runs with antibiotics. A 3-day course treatment of fenbendazole (Panacur) was given to all incoming dogs in order to treat any roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms. Dr. Feldman noted that none of the dogs were euthanized as a result of giardia, and that the situation was under control.

Under the leadership of staff and Commissioner Ponce, 27 volunteers coordinated over the October 20 weekend and bathed 99 of the center's dogs. The Omni Hotel graciously donated a large volume of bathrobes to be used to adequately dry the animals.

Dog and Cat Statistics for 2007 Calendar Year to Date: Dog and cat euthanasia decreased 25% compared to 2006. Adoptions increased 7.6%, with dogs up 10% and cats up 4%. Euthanasia for neonate kittens has decreased 63%, while euthanasia for pit bulls has decreased 30%.

Department Events: On September 15, the Department hosted the Grand Opening of the new East Valley Animal Care Center. The Department will begin moving into the new West Los Angeles and West Valley facilities in early November, with the Grand Opening of the new West Valley Animal Care Center scheduled to take place on November 29, 2007 at 10:00 AM. On September 17, the General Manager held the quarterly All-Hands Meeting. Mayor Villaraigosa made an appearance to congratulate and recognize staff for their exceptional efforts in increasing adoptions and decreasing euthanasia throughout the City. On October 4, the Community Room at the East Valley Center was used by the Humane Society of the United States to launch a signature gathering effort for changes in California law with respect to farming.